**San Damiano Fraternity – Pastoral Visitation**

**Saturday, November 5th, 2022 – Ruskin, FL**

**General state of the fraternity’s growth:**

The fraternity’s growth has been affected by the pandemic, the death of members, members being away (ie. members in College), and other factors beyond their control. The fraternity welcomes everyone with warmth and a kind spirit. Council members feel that the fraternity’s duties need to be distributed to members who need to be more proactive.

**Quality of the fraternity’s spiritual growth and incorporation of the Franciscan charism:**

The council member described the fraternity as a one-man show, which contradicts the statement from the Spiritual Assistant, Friar Henry Fulmer, O.F.M. He stated that “this fraternity works hard to live the Franciscan charism and values.” It is recommended that the Council must work together to promote fraternal interaction among the members. It is not an excuse to say that “I cannot do it because I am advanced in years.” The fraternity needs a renewal and vocation campaign.

The fraternity will benefit by creating a *Vocational Campaign* to promote the O.F.S. in Ruskin by announcing the fraternity on social media, putting ads in the parish bulletin, praying the Franciscan Crown events with the local communities, creating bookmarks and fliers with Franciscan writings, praying to the Secular Franciscan saints, promoting the lives of the modern Secular Franciscan saints, and participating in Diocesan events. Each member is a vocational promoter.

***You are a hidden treasure that the world needs to see!***

**Relationship of the fraternity with the host parish or friary and with the wider Church:**

The fraternity has a close relationship with the parish community and local pastor. The members have an excellent opportunity to engage by providing Franciscan formation to the children, youth, young adults, young married couples, and the community at large.

**Appraisal of the fraternity’s spiritual assistance:**

Friar Henry Fulmer, O.F.M. joyfully expressed that “this fraternity loves to live the Franciscan charism and they work hard to live the Secular Franciscan charism and values.” I noticed a disconnection between the Spiritual Assistant’s appraisal and the reality lived in the fraternity.

**General Comments:**

I suggest the following activities to the members so they can participate deeply in the penitential process of the renewal of their fraternal life.

**Apostolic Ministry:**

The Secular Franciscans bring mercy to the poor (Testament Line 2) by making a physical presence in their lives, bringing the essentials to the homeless, being present to the elderly who are lonely, and to the vulnerable people of God (ie.: immigrants). (Please check OFS Constitutions, Article 17, 1). It is an essential activity to do the *“Ministry of Presence.”* Therefore, the fraternity must connect itself with the poor and vulnerable in the area. The Secular Franciscans “follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.” (Rule of the OFS Chp II, 7 & 10). (Please check OFS Constitutions, Article 17, 1).

**Fraternal Meetings:**

I suggest that the fraternity tries to have more non-business fraternal meetings. It’s beneficial for the fraternities to have picnics, outings, social events, visit the surrounding Catholic churches, etc.

**Formation - Recommended:**

It’s HIGHLY recommended that the Formation Director and his/her team continue to receive ongoing Franciscan formation. The OFS Fraternities should only use Franciscan Spiritual programs.

Please visit the following Franciscan Institutions. Some of these Franciscan Institutions offer non-credit classes online.

https://www.fst.edu/degrees-programs/non-degree-and-certificates/

https://www.sbu.edu/academics/academic-resources/franciscan-institute

https://spt.franciscan.edu/programs/franciscan-studies-minor/

Free Sources from the Franciscan School of Theology:

https://www.youtube.com/c/FSTEDU1

**Ongoing Formation:**

During the ongoing formation, it is recommended that members should take his/her turn discussing a topic from the FUN manual or The Franciscan Journey Book. The Council should select a series of topics to discuss throughout the year and assigned randomly a member to lead the discussion. The Council should provide a list of the topics and selects the member to give the topic. All the members must have an active voice in the fraternity. *Let the Holy Spirit flow!*

**Suggested: Reading for Initial Formation and Ongoing Formation:**

-https://www.franciscantradition.org/early-sources - (Updated writings of St. Francis and St. Clare – Free access and available for downloading and printing.)

-*St. Francis of Assisi: Passion, Poverty & the Man Who Transformed the Catholic Church* by Bret Thoman, OFS, Publisher: TAN Books (Excellent book to use during the Candidacy or as an ongoing formation tool).

-For the 3 Volumes on St. Francis and St. Clare, please visit the New City Press website.

https://www.newcitypress.com/francis-of-assisi-early-documents-set.html

*-God is Love* by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

*-The Franciscan Journey* – updated version

*-A Knight and a Lady: A Journey into the Spirituality of Saints Francis and Clare* by Bret Thoman, OFS (Author), Murray Bodo (Foreword) – Publisher: Independently Published – via Amazon Smile

**JPIC**

The DNA of the Secular Franciscan consists of promoting JPIC through the Catholic Social Teaching of the Church. Our Lady of the Angels Region created this mini-series regarding the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church on YouTube:

Video 1: https://youtu.be/Blq0MNk5dzk?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 2:https://youtu.be/nZXoYLoLNfg?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 3: https://youtu.be/tShbbvZu0tQ?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 4:https://youtu.be/YEbG3uyYUp0?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 5: https://youtu.be/RTM9C\_Sb\_Bg?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aR

Video 6: https://youtu.be/\_\_FBIZHq9js?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

It is recommended that the Council promotes the USCCB web pages among the members. Every OFS member can input his or her contact information, so the USCCB will inform them regarding all their JPIC needs. (Please check Rule of the OFS – Chapter II, Art. 6)

Below are the links to the JPIC of the USCCB. Take Action!

https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development

https://www.usccb.org/take-action

If you have any questions regarding the pastoral report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Br. Lombardo D’Auria, OFM Cap.

Regional Spiritual Assistant – FFMR

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